Abolition Licences for Agricultural Industries

541. SHRI P UPENDRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kissan Coordination Committee has demanded abolition of all licencing requirements for agricultural industries and all restrictions, including quotas and canalisations, on agricultural exports; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to meet the demands of the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government have taken a number of steps for abolition of licencing requirements and rationalisation of export procedures. The recent amendments to the trade policy (1992—97) announced on 31-3-1993 have further liberalised trade policies pertaining to agricultural exports.

Plan strategy for Agriculture

542. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan strategy for agriculture include that agriculture scientists move nearer to the farmers fields so that the reverse communication from the land to lab becomes really effectives and emphasis on water management; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Sir, Agricultural Scientists are closely working with farmers by organising field demonstrations, training, field days and adaptive trials on various aspects of agriculture including water management. Scientific information thus generated from the fields (land) are passed on to the research laboratories (labs) of State Agricultural Universities and ICAR Institutes as a feed back (reverse communication). Progressive farmers are also invited to the universities/institutes to interact with Scientists through lectures and seminars. This also provide feed-back to the researchers.

Starvation conditions in Orissa

543. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the implementation of the remedial measures taken both by the Central and State Government agencies with regard to the scarcity and starvation conditions in the districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir, Phulbani and Koraput in Orissa;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons for the unsatisfactory progress, if any, in carrying out the relief programme; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c) The implementation of various drought relief measures is being reviewed continuously by the Central and State Government of Orissa with regard to drought conditions prevailing in the State, particularly in the districts of Kalahandi, Bolangir and

Koraput. During the course of such reviews, the following action points have been identified for implementation:—

(i) Strengthening of village level administrative infrastructure.

(ii) Stepping up of activities of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAS) and Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAS).

(iii) Expediting the work of compiling details of various projects/ schemes.

(iv) Relief Commissioner, Bhawanipatna, to direct, coordinate and monitor various employment generating activities in the area.

(v) Implementation of various programmes for vulnerable groups, public distribution and health.

(vi) Immdiate preparation of systematic, long-term programme in agriculture, horticulture, welfare and other sectors.

Government of Orissa has also prepared an Action Plan for execution of drought mitigation works during April-June 1993. The monitoring of employment and other drought relief measures is being done periodically.

Development of herbicides for wheat crops

544. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for declining yields in India's wheat belt spread over the North India;

(b) how far is the incidence of weed resistance to chemicals responsible;

(c) how many types of herbicides have been developed for wheat crops; and

(d) how far efforts have been successful to build a new system of resistance into wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) There is no decline in yields in India's wheat belt spread over North India.

(b) It is likely that some weeds may develop resistance to some of the chemicals in future. However, no incidence of weed resistance to chemicals has been reported so far.

(c) Although there are number of herbicides developed but only following eight herbicides are registered under Insecticide Act for weed control in wheat crop;

1. 2, 4—D
2. Isoproturon
3. Methabenzthiazuron
4. Metozuron
5. Triallate
6. Dichlormate
7. MCPA
8. Pendimethalin

(d) No efforts have been made to develop weed resistance into wheat.

Hunger and poverty States

545. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 11th April, 1993 under the caption "Daughter on sale for a bag of rice";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;